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November 29, 2010

Mr. Douglas Bosco
Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, F/11
Oakland, California 94612-2503

Dear Mr. Bosco:

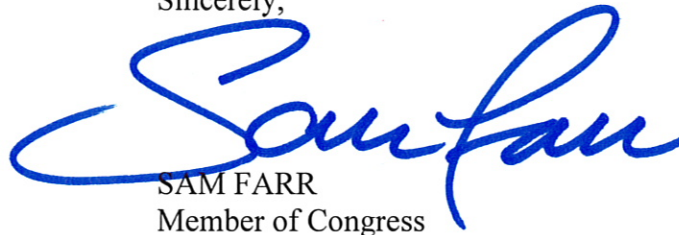
I am writing to express my strong support for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center's application for California Coastal Conservancy funding. The Exploration Center is a partnership of many different organizations that care about the Sanctuary, the oceans, and California's coastal environment. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of the National Marine Sanctuary, City of Santa Cruz and National Marine Sanctuary Foundation have provided significant resources and support to the project. I am pleased to see that the ground is broken and the facility will be completed in the next 14 months.

The Exploration Center, through its innovative interactive exhibits and classroom will encourage visitors to be curious, ask questions, enjoy and take pride in their Sanctuary -- and to help make sure it will be here, full of life, for many generations to come. Because the exhibits will be in both English and Spanish, featuring interactive videos, and objects to manipulate, children and adults of all ages and cultures will feel welcome. This may be the first time they have ever had a chance to learn about a marine sanctuary and why it is both wonderful and useful -- for them and for all of us. For most of the children, it will be their first introduction to marine science.

Located on the coastal waterfront adjacent to Depot Park and the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, the Exploration Center will provide an additional amenity for visitors from as near as the San Francisco Bay Area and the Central Valley and as far as Europe and Asia. This is an excellent addition to our coast and in a time a new ocean policy has been put forth in our government, this center is key to educating the public about some of the important issues in resource management for our oceans and coast.

The Sanctuary Exploration Center, once built, will be a key part of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail providing meaningful experiences for the visitors to our coast.

Sincerely,



SAM FARR
Member of Congress

SF/bv

Please be sure to visit my website at www.farr.house.gov.

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WILLIAM W. MONNING
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

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November 9, 2010

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Chairman Bosco:

This letter is to express my support for the City of Santa Cruz's request for a \$500,000 grant from the California State Coastal Conservancy to partially fund exhibits in the new Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Exploration Center in Santa Cruz.

When completed, the 12,000 square foot Exploration Center will house educational, interactive displays about marine life in the Monterey Submarine Canyon, employing innovative approaches to educational exhibit design such as interactive video kiosks and a live feed theater from underwater exploration.

Additionally, the MBNMS Exploration Center is a public-private partnership between the City of Santa Cruz which provided the $\frac{3}{4}$ acre lot, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries which has provided the funding to construct the building, and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation which is conducting a \$3 million capital campaign to fund exhibits, and is an excellent example of what can be achieved when organizations work together to reach a mutual goal.

The MBMNS Exploration Center will help visitors learn about the ecology of the marine sanctuary and has been strategically located by the main beach and boardwalk to attract the maximum number of visitors. As another attraction situated close to Santa Cruz's existing landmarks, the City of Santa Cruz considers the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center a key to revitalizing their waterfront, creating jobs and educating visitors about marine exploration and conservation, and I respectfully request your favorable consideration of its funding request. Should you have any questions regarding my support for this project, please contact me at (916) 319-2027.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM W. MONNING
Assemblymember, 27th District

WWM:rg

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**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.**



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November 9, 2010

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Re: Letter of Support for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the funding request submitted by the City of Santa Cruz for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center. The \$500,000 in requested funds will help support the development and construction of the Sanctuary Exploration Center's exhibitions.

The city has entered into a collaborative partnership with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to create a facility that will promote ocean education and foster environmental stewardship. The visitors to the Sanctuary Exploration Center will experience dynamic, interactive and multi-media exhibits, a theater with wide-screen, real-time, underwater video, and hands-on displays that emphasize coastal, watershed, and ocean resource education and climate-change impacts.

Just steps away from the Pacific Ocean, the Sanctuary Exploration Center will be within easy walking distance to many popular attractions, including the Municipal Wharf, and the historic Beach Boardwalk, and will also be located along the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail, which will someday stretch from Santa Cruz to Pacific Grove. The millions of tourists who make Santa Cruz their vacation destination will be given the opportunity to visit the architecturally distinct, LEED-certified Exploration Center building to learn about the Monterey Bay Sanctuary's unique and fascinating coastal and marine natural resources.

The preservation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is a high priority for my District, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center will play a critical role in educating the public about this the underwater jewel that is the Monterey Bay.

Thank you for considering my strong support of this program. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Joseph Simitian', with a stylized flourish at the end.

S. Joseph Simitian
State Senator, Eleventh District

Fred Keeley
121 Market Street
Santa Cruz, California
95060

The Honorable Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the Sanctuary Exploration Center (SEC), a joint partnership between the City of Santa Cruz and NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). The SEC will be the largest visitor center on the west coast for the sanctuary program and a welcome addition to our Santa Cruz community. The center's proximity to the Seaside Company's Boardwalk Amusement Park will take advantage of many of the 3-4 million visitors that come to the area each year.

Through innovative interactive exhibits such as videos kiosks and linking live video feed from the underwater sanctuary to the theater, the visitor to the center will be immersed in a unique environment. The exciting learning opportunity will be an ideal place to orient visitors to not only all the wonderful sites in the city, but also to teach them to enjoy and use the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in a responsible manner.

As you may know, when I had the privilege to serve in the California State Assembly, I authored the Marine Life Management Act, as well as Propositions 12 and 40, the two largest park and environmental protection bonds in the nation's history. The work of the Coastal Conservancy to provide substantial financial assistance to operationalize the policy goals of both the Marine Life Management Act and the Marine Life Protection Act (Shelley 2000), is very much recognized and appreciated. This project fits, in my view, exceptionally well into that legacy work of the Conservancy.

The SEC is part of a larger plan for the City of Santa Cruz' revitalization of our coastal waterfront to better accommodate tourism, promoting excellence and innovation in urban design. The facility itself is designed to be a Leader in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building and will be built to a minimum of Silver standard demonstrating many green technologies.

The MBNMS stretches from Marin to Cambria, encompassing 276 miles of shoreline and 6,094 square miles of protected ocean. Supporting one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, it is home to numerous mammals, seabirds, fishes, invertebrates and plants in a remarkably productive coastal environment. The Exploration Center will be the hub for activity to introduce visitors to one of the largest marine protected areas in the United States.

Thank you for your public service in the House of Representatives, and on the Coastal Conservancy.

Sincerely,



FRED KEELEY
Treasurer
County of Santa Cruz

Former Member
California State Assembly

Trustee
California Ocean Science Trust

Chair
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Exportation Center, Capital Campaign

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